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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0516

ZOE LOFGREN

16TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

February 9, 2009

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CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL HAZARDS CAUCUS

CO-CHAIR, BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL
REFUGEE CAUCUS

CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL VIETNAM CAUCUS

Dear Friends:

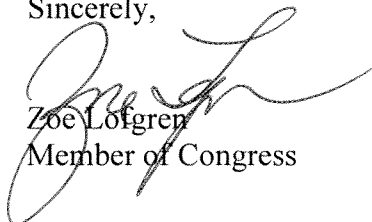
It is my pleasure to invite your school to participate in the 28th Annual Congressional Art Competition titled *An Artistic Discovery*.

This nationwide art competition, created in 1982, has showcased the talents and creativity of hundreds of thousands of high school students from across the United States. One high school student from my district will be selected for the top honor.

The winning student's artwork will be showcased for one full year in our Nation's Capitol in the Cannon Tunnel. The winner and one guest will be invited to join Congressmembers and students from across the nation at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday, June 24, 2009 on Capitol Hill. A major airline has graciously offered to fly the winner and two guests to Washington, D.C. for this event. Three round-trip tickets will be offered to the winning student, if the student chooses to attend the ceremony. Additionally, the winner will be eligible for a renewable art scholarship of \$1,500 per year for four years at a nationally recognized art school.

The Congressional Art Competition is one of only a few national art competitions that honors the talents and abilities of students at the high school level. I am hopeful that high school students in my district will take full advantage of this opportunity. If you have any questions, please contact Mia White, a member of my staff, at (408) 271-8700 or mia.white@mail.house.gov. For your reference, I have enclosed additional information on the art competition guidelines and deadlines.

Sincerely,



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

ZL:mw
Enclosures

The Office of Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren

2009 Congressional Art Competition

Important Dates to Remember:

Contest Begins:	Monday, February 2, 2009
Artwork due to District Office:	5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 4, 2009
Washington, D.C. Ceremony:	Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Guidelines and framing:

See attached sheet on artwork guidelines. To be eligible, the student must attend a high school in the 16th Congressional District of California. If you are not sure if your school qualifies, please call our office.

Art work submitted to the District Office ***does not*** need to be framed. Only the winning entry needs to be framed. The District Office will make arrangements with the winning student about the framing guidelines once selected. The attached sheet includes guidelines on framing for your information only.

Student Submission/Release Form:

See the attached Student Information and Release form. Every student wishing to participate in the Congressional Art Competition must deliver their artwork with a completed and ***typed*** Student Information and Release form by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 4, 2009. If you would like an electronic fill-in copy of the student release form, please email Mia White at mia.white@mail.house.gov. Submissions may be dropped off or mailed to:

**ATTN: Congressional Art Competition
Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren
635 North 1st Street, Suite B
San Jose, CA 95112**

Additional Information:

Any additional information or questions should be directed to Mia White of my staff at (408) 271-8700 or mia.white@mail.house.gov.

2009 Congressional Art Competition

Congressional Art Competition Guidelines

General Guidelines – Applies to all entries

The competition is open to high school students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 only attending a school in the 16th Congressional District. Home school students residing in our district are also eligible. If you have questions whether a student is eligible, please call or email our office.

In order to allow artwork to hang in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol, the following restrictions are enforced:

Artwork must conform to the restrictions:

- Artwork must be two-dimensional
- Each piece can be **no larger** than 30"x30"x4" (30 inches high, 30 inches wide, and 4 inches deep) including the frame. (See framing guidelines below.) Artwork cannot weigh more than 15 lbs.
- Each entry must be original in concept, design, and execution and may not violate any U.S. copyright laws. Any entry which has been reproduced from an existing photo (not the student's own), painting, graphic, advertisement, or any other work produced by another person is a violation of the competition rules and **will not** be accepted.
- Artwork will hang in the Capitol for the **entire year** of the exhibition and **cannot** be returned to students earlier. Students, therefore, should submit artwork they will not need for other purposes.
- Artwork categories are as follows:
 - Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
 - Drawings: pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, markers
 - Collage: must be two dimensional
 - Prints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
 - Mixed Media: use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, etc.
 - Computer generated art
 - Photography

The final decision regarding the suitability of all artwork for the 2009 Congressional Art Competition exhibition in the Capitol will be made by a panel of qualified persons chaired by the Architect of the Capitol. Artwork must adhere to the policy of the House Office Building Commission. In accordance with this policy, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or a sensationalistic or gruesome nature are not allowed. It is necessary that all artwork be reviewed by the panel chaired by the Architect of the Capitol and any portion not in consonance with the Commission's policy will be omitted from the exhibit.

Framing Guidelines – Only the winning piece must be framed. Framing arrangements can be made after a winning piece is selected. The winner will have approximately 7 – 10 days to complete framing after a winning piece is selected. Hardship cases will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

- Frames should be kept as simple and sturdy as possible. Metal frames are recommended. No "snap on" frames with glass are to be used.
- All artwork must be protected by Plexiglas or glass. Plexiglas is preferred. If glass is used, cover the entire surface completely with masking tape. All works, including frame, should be no larger than 30 inches high, 30 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, and 15 lbs in weight. This includes the outside dimensions of the frame. Please double check size before submitting.
- Matting can enhance or detract from a work of art and should be carefully prepared.
- Use sturdy picture hangers on the back of the frame. Two sturdy eye hooks should be attached at the right and the left sides of the back of the work for hanging in order to prevent the work from leaning forward or hanging unevenly. **Do not put wire between the hooks** for hanging, these will be added when the artwork is hung in the Capitol.
- Do not attach labels, ribbon, etc. to the front of the piece or underneath the glass or Plexiglas.
- If the artwork is abstract in design, please indicate on the backside which side is "up" with arrows.

Contact for the 16th District Congressional Art Competition

Mia White

408-271-8700

mia.white@mail.house.gov